

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20508**

USTR PRESS RELEASES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USTR HOME PAGE AT WWW.USTR.GOV.
THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE USTR FAX RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AT 202-395-4809.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 19, 1999**

**99 - 37
CONTACT: JAY ZIEGLER
HELAINE KLASKY
AMY STILWELL
(202) 395-3230**

USTR Barshefsky Committed to Resolving Beef Hormone Dispute

Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky and Secretary Glickman met separately with Sir Leon Brittan today to discuss a number of issues, including the European Union (EU) ban on U.S. meat from cattle treated with hormones. Ambassador Barshefsky and Secretary Glickman informed Sir Leon that the United States remains committed to resolving this long-standing dispute.

“We expect the EU to come into compliance with its WTO obligations by lifting its illegal ban on imports of U.S. meat. We are prepared to label U.S. meat to enable European consumers to make their own choice. And, we are willing to discuss a temporary compensation package to provide the EU reasonable time to change its laws. But, the key question is whether the EU will respect the clear and unambiguous WTO ruling to lift its ban on U.S. meat,” said United States Trade Representative Ambassador Barshefsky.

Background

After decades of study by the international scientific community, including by European scientists, the WTO concluded in January 1998 that there is no evidence of health risk to support the EU’s ban on meat from animals treated with the growth promotants approved in the United States. The WTO granted the EU 15 months to come into compliance with these rulings, until May 13, 1999. The EU has not taken any steps to come into compliance with the WTO rulings.